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**Parsons, Elsie Clews.** "*The Family.*" Pp. xxv, 389. Price, \$3.00. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1906.

It is rather a singular commentary upon our times that a serious and able study of one of the most fundamental institutions in human society should have been so widely condemned, and its author abused and villified by many most prominent in the ministry and other professions. All of this came about because some one saw fit to publish a few sentences, taken from the context, which gave people the impression that the volume now under review was an attack upon the system of monogamy, and an appeal for sexual license. It is all the more disheartening to realize that at the time of this furore very few of those who participated in it could have read the book they so roundly condemned. On the other hand there must be hundreds of people who felt that they had received a gold brick when they found out the sort of book they had really purchased. All of this is deeply unfortunate, for Mrs. Parsons has given us the best book yet prepared for the student, whether in school or at home.

There are two methods of studying social institutions. The first is to take those to which one is accustomed, as the normal or perhaps even the final, and to condemn all deviations therefrom. The second is to study the different types of institutions appearing in various places on the earth, and to see why they have taken their peculiar forms, and to discuss their relative success. The first method is very commonly followed. It is easy and self-complimentary, and, moreover, present institutions have back of them legal and religious sanction. Mrs. Parsons, however, has wisely chosen the second course. Her method on any given subject is illustrated by, let us say, Lecture XIII, The Patriarchate. Eight pages are given to general discussion. This is followed by note A, a bibliography (one and a half pages); note B, quotations from various authors (two pages); note C, suggestions for individual study on relative topics; note D, descriptions of the patriarchate amongst various peoples, consisting largely of quotations (seventeen pages). It will thus be seen that the book is designed specifically for the student.

The volume begins with an introductory chapter, followed by fifteen lectures, all of them treated in much the same fashion as the one mentioned above. The mere title of these lectures will sufficiently indicate their subject matter. The Meaning of the Family in Evolution (five pages); The Duration of Parental Care among Mankind (seventeen pages); Social Factors in Birth and Child Death Rates (fifteen pages); Parental Power (twenty-nine pages); Home Education and Stages of Parenthood (twenty-one pages); Sexual Relations Exclusive of Marriage (twenty-four pages); The Form and Duration of Marriage (twenty-three pages); Sexual Choice (twenty-eight pages); Betrothal and Marriage Ceremonial, and Relations between Husband and Wife exclusive of Economic Relations (thirty-one pages); Economic Relations between Husband and Wife (twenty-five pages); The Reckoning of Descent and Kinship (eighteen pages); Kinship Groups—The Primitive Simple Family—The Compound Family—The Matriarchate (twenty-nine pages); The Patriarchate (twenty-nine pages); The Modern Simple Family

(twelve pages); Ethical Conditions (eighteen pages). The volume is concluded by translations of a questionnaire of Dr. Post's and the index.

It will thus be seen that with the exception of the last single short chapter we have a descriptive account of the family institution amongst various human races. No one therefore who has carefully read this book can take an exception to the standpoint of Mrs. Parsons on moral grounds. Mrs. Parsons believes that "as a matter of fact, truly monogamous relations seem to be those most conducive to emotional and intellectual development and to health, so that, quite apart from the question of prostitution, promiscuity is not desirable or even tolerable." She has been considering in the context immediately preceding this the evils of prostitution and the dual standards of sexual morality. In view of the evils she has been discussing she merely raises the question whether it might not be better to arrange more definitely than we now do by our haphazard system, for some sort of a marriage established with the view to permanency, but which, under certain conditions, might be terminated without incurring the censure of the public, if the marriage were unsuccessful and there were no children. Whether the author really advocates this, or whether one agrees with her if she does are matters of unimportance. The family is a human institution, under human control, and any suggestion from a serious student looking toward the removal of present evils, and a substitution of a better scheme is a matter of careful consideration, and not for indiscriminate condemnation of the one who makes it.

To all those who have occasion to study the family this scholarly, modest and able treatment is to be commended. The volume should have wide use in college and university class rooms, and of that larger group of students in various associations outside.

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**Prentice, E. P. *The Federal Power over Carriers and Corporations.* Pp. xi, 244. Price, \$1.50. New York: Macmillan Co., 1907.**

This scholarly work covers a large and important subject with most commendable conciseness. Two of the eight chapters are notably strong, Chapter III on Gibbons *vs.* Ogden, and Chapter VII on the Anti-Trust Act. The discussion of Gibbons *vs.* Ogden brings out very clearly the precise scope and limits of Justice Marshall's famous decision. The treatment of the anti-trust law, although comprehensive, is less satisfactory.

The volume as a whole consists of an argument against the extension of the powers of the national government. From time to time throughout the book the author calls attention to the dangerous breadth being given by the federal courts to the national government. The author thinks great care should be taken to develop the powers and functions of the states. In the closing paragraph of the book he states:

"It is of great importance in all these matters, and particularly at the present time in commercial affairs, that state jurisdiction be not superseded,